

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02929 031411Z

46

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EA-06 ITF-05 SR-02

ORM-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 VO-01 SCA-01 IO-03 H-01 L-01

SP-02 /054 W

----- 014776

P 031325Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4520

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2929

LIMDIS

NEA/ARN PASS AMBASSADOR PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, JO

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUEST

REF: AMMAN 2861

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM DEPARTMENT TO REFTEL A REQUESTING FAVORABLE DECISION ON REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN US FOR KHMER AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN AND TWO OTHER KHMER EMBASSY OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. IN ABSENCE SUCH A FAVORABLE RESPONSE, WE ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER SITUATION HERE REGARDING BOTH KHMER DIPLOMATS AND OUR RELATIONS WITH FOJ, AND WOULD LIKE TO DRAW DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO SOME OF THE FACTORS INVOLVED.

2. IT IS OBVIOUS TO ALL FAMILIAR WITH SITUATION IN JORDAN THAT THE KHMER EMBASSY STAFF HAS NO FUTURE HERE. JORDAN HAS A VERY NARROW ECONOMIC BASE AND EVEN WITH EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE AMOUNTING TO HALF ITS BUDGET, JORDAN IS IN A CHRONIC BUDGET DEFICIT POSITION WITH VERY LIMITED PRIVATE ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. IT IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 02929 031411Z

MENTION THAT JORDAN IS ALREADY HARD PRESSED, EVEN

WITH MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR UNRWA AID PROGRAM, TO ABSORB THE NEARLY 1 MILLION PALESTINIAN REFUGEES HERE, INCLUDING 200,000 CURRENTLY IN REFUGEE CAMPS.

3. CHIEF GOJ POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HIMSELF HAS INDICATED THAT KHMER DIPLOMATS FACE BLEAK FUTURE IN JORDAN AND CITED FACT THAT CIVIL SERVICE HAS SURPLUS OF 28,000 APPLICATIONS FOR JOBS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH ARABIC OR POSSESSION OF A SALEABLE SKILL RULE OUT ANY GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT HERE BY KHMER DIPLOMATS.

4. IN REFTEL WE MENTIONED THAT GOJ HAS TAKEN PRELIMINARY POSITION THAT KHMER DIPLOMATS ARE FREE TO REMAIN HERE "AS LONG AS THEY LIKE" BUT THAT GOJ CAN PROVIDE NO FINANCIAL SUPPORT. THIS EXERCISE OF TRADITIONAL ARAB HOSPITALITY SHOULD NOT HOWEVER BE CONFUSED WITH OFFER OF VIABLE LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE RESIDENCE IN JORDAN FOR KHMER DIPLOMATS. DIRECTOR OF FONMIN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HAS STATED THAT GOJ HAS NOT TAKEN POSITION WITH REGARD TO QUESTION OF POLITICAL ASYLUM AND TOLD KHMER AMBASSADOR THAT ANY SUCH DECISION WOULD REQUIRE GOJ CABINET APPROVAL WHICH UNLIKELY TO ADDRESS ISSUE DURING CURRENT ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER IN US. IN FACT, ABSENCE OF ANY GOJ COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS TANTAMOUNT TO INDICATING THAT KHMER DIPLOMATS HAVE NO REAL ECONOMIC FUTURE HERE.

5. ANOTHER COMPLICATION IS FACT THAT GOJ PROMPTLY RECOGNIZED SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING FALL OF LON NOL REGIME. THUS FAR, IT HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY AND WE FORESEE THAT CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CURRENT EMBASSY STAFF--ALBEIT IN NON-OFFICIAL STATUS--COULD BE IMPEDIMENT TO ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. JORDAN IS A SMALL COUNTRY, AMMAN IS A SMALL TOWN AND PRESENCE OF PREVIOUS AMBASSADOR AND STAFF HERE WOULD POSE REAL PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES TO ESTABLISHMENT OF GOJ-GRUNK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

6. WE THEREFORE SEE A STEADILY DETERIORATING SITUATION  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 AMMAN 02929 031411Z

FOR KHMER DIPLOMATS HERE WHICH WILL PRESENT MORE AND MORE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE GOJ, AND, BY EXTENSION, TO GOJ RELATIONS WITH USG. GIVEN FACT KHMER DIPLOMATS HAVE NO ECONOMIC PROSPECTS HERE, AND HAVE MADE CLEAR THEY PREFER TO GO TO US WHERE THERE IS AUTHORITY TO ADMIT KHMER DIPLOMATS, GOJ WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING CONTINUED US INACTION WITH REGARD TO AGREEING TO PAROLE THEM TO US. GOJ ALSO REMEMBERS

CLOSE US COLLABORATION WITH SUCCESSFUL KHMER EFFORTS  
TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT MISSION HERE AND CLOSE  
IDENTIFICATION WITH LON NOL REGIME UNTIL ITS LAST DAYS,  
WITH WHICH THREE KHMER DIPLOMATS HAVE CLOSE TIES.

7. WE BELIEVE CONTINUED US INACTION TOWARDS PLIGHT OF ONLY  
KHMER EMBASSY IN ARAB WOULD WILL BE A  
GROWING IRRITAITON TO GOJ. IF WE TAKE NO  
POSITIVE ACTION ON THIS MATTER, IT VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT  
PRIME MINISTER WILL RAISE ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR UPON  
RETURN FROM THE US. WE WOULD LIKE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE TO  
AVERT THAT POSSIBILITY AS WELL AS THE PROSPECT OF DE-  
TERIORATING CONDITION OF KHMER DIPLOMATS HERE, BY GRANT-  
ING EXPEDITIOUS PAROLE FOR RESIDENT KHMER DIPLOMATS  
AND FAMILIES INTO US.

8. PLEASE ADVISE.  
SUDDARTH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL ASYLUM, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975AMMAN02929  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750156-0264  
**From:** AMMAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750582/aaaacxfl.tel  
**Line Count:** 133  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 75 AMMAN 2861  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 AUG 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CAMBODIAN POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUEST  
**TAGS:** SREF, CB, JO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006